

Minutes of a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held on October 18, 1996 at 10:0 am in H 762, SGW Campus

Present: Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Dr. S.M. Graub, Ms. N. Torbit, Ms C. Hughes, Ms A. Ghadban, Prof. B. Barbieri, Mr. H. Zarins, Mr. A. Feldman, Mr. R. Melkonian, Mr. N. Baidoun, Ms E. Robinson, Mr. A. Zakka, Ms L. Lipscombe, Mr. R. MacIver

Absent with Regrets: Ms. K. Hedrich, Ms A. Kerby, Mr. R. Côté, Dr. R. Bonin, Ms L. Prendergast, Ms A. Vroom

Delegates: Ms I. Sendek replaced Dr. R. Bonin, Ms L. Hauber replaced Ms K. Hedrich, Ms L. LeCouvie replaced Ms A. Vroom

Absent: Dr. M. Barlow

Guests: Ms. M. West, CSU
Mr. D. Gagnon, CSU President

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Under Item #7 Dr. Boisvert requested the addition of the CSU motion on the Tuition Fee increase. Mr. A. Feldman also requested the inclusion of the Space Planning Task Force for discussion. The agenda with these modifications was approved.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert welcomed Mr. Assaad Zakka as a new graduate representative on Council. Dr. Boisvert remarked there were still undergraduate vacancies on Council as well as one graduate student vacancy. Mr. Baidoun assured Council there would be a full complement within 15 days.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 1996

A motion was carried to adopt the minutes. Dr. Boisvert thanked Ms Hackett on behalf of Council, for her very good minutes.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a) **Recreation & Athletics Budget Deficit:** As Mr. Zarins had indicated he would be late for the Council meeting and was not in attendance at the time this item was addressed, it was decided that Professor Barbieri would contact Mr. Zarins directly for clarification. Dr. Boisvert also confirmed he had met with Mr. Zarins. The operating budget was to be cut by \$50,000 this year, as compensation for the 1995/96 deficit. There is accountability. The issue has been dealt with.

b) **IEAC Budget Statements:** Mr. Melkonian distributed the IEAC budget statement. Dr. Boisvert confirmed that as specified by Council, IEAC will submit expenditure reports quarterly, approximately every 2 or 3 months. Mr. Melkonian briefly highlighted the report for Council, drawing attention to the implementation of a Cultural Projects Fund. He emphasized this fund was strictly for cultural, not social events. He welcomed any comments. Questions arose concerning the difference in monetary

allocations to the associations. Mr. Melkonian explained first year associations are on a probationary period and receive the lowest allocation. Depending on the status of groups the allocations can range from \$350.00 to \$3,000. Mr. Melkonian explained the meaning of "probation" and how that can affect allocations year to year. Probation comes under the jurisdiction of the IEAC Judicial Committee which meets once a month.

c) **CSU Job Bank/Off-Campus Housing Budget:** Mr. Baidoun explained the process of examining the budgets was not yet completed. He apologized for the lateness and confirmed the budgets will be available for the next Council meeting.

d) **Council Budgetary Input:** Dr. Boisvert indicated that as the Directors had not met since the last Council meeting, this issue had not been addressed. He will report back to Council as soon as possible.

e) **Special Projects Committee:** Dr. Boisvert distributed the list of projects that had been awarded financial assistance to date. Mr. Feldman asked for clarification of the amount given to QPirg's Tools for Change Activists Workshops given the fact they are funded from student fees. Mr. Zakka explained that the workshops were in cooperation with Qpirg and that Qpirg was subsidizing 1/2 of the cost.

f) **Student Services Review Report - Follow-up:** The report prepared by Mr. Côté, Ms Hughes and Mr. Baidoun was distributed. Dr. Boisvert asked Council to take a few minutes to read the report before discussion. Ms Hughes explained one of the main reasons to have a facilitator for this day was to allow Dr. Boisvert to participate. She reiterated that the facilitator should be very familiar with student life. Professor Barbieri questioned the need for a facilitator as well as the cost. Dr. Boisvert felt that as the "workshop" was to consider the report, the facilitator would help Council in dealing with the review and reactions. Mr. Feldman asked whether it would be possible to make use of university resources to avoid additional expenses. Dr. Graub questioned what Council was looking for in a facilitator. If what we need is just a design for the day - a format - those resources can be free. Mr. Baidoun felt a facilitator would help us focus and keep us on track. After discussion the consensus was that an objective facilitator was necessary but we should explore ways to keep the cost to a bare minimum. Dr. Boisvert will meet with the committee on Council's behalf and report back at the next meeting. Dr. Boisvert asked that the formal responses from the Directors be received by November 22 at the latest. Mr. Baidoun informed Council that CSU will also submit a response for November 22. Dr. Boisvert felt it would be awkward for him to respond formally as Dean of Students. He will respond verbally. Mr. Feldman asked if Council could have a list of all the Review recommendations that have been implemented to date. Dr. Boisvert agreed to prepare a detailed account for the next Council meeting. After reviewing schedules, it was decided the date of the workshop would be **Friday, November 29**; 9:00am-5:00pm. The committee after consultation with Council will decide the structure of the workshop with the facilitator. It was also decided that the invitation should extend to the members of the Review Task Force as well as the permanent observers on CCSL. Ms Torbit felt that the Review Task Force members should be **strongly** encouraged to attend. Council agreed the spirit of the day was not to criticize but to be open to views, discussion and change.

g) **Writing Assistants Program:** Mr. Baidoun expressed thanks to Dr. Boisvert for facilitating the transfer of the program and asked when publicity would start. Dr. Boisvert confirmed the first advertisement will appear in the Link on October 22nd. He also informed Council that despite the fact there had been no publicity to date, 81 appointments had been made during the first two weeks of operation.

5. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

a) **Smart Start:** Dr. Graub reported that letters concerning the program have been sent out. The advertised deadline has been extended. All new students who wish an appointment will be seen. She reiterated that the first 8 weeks of school are crucial to the student's future and to student retention. Dr. Graub asked Council to be good ambassadors for the program and to please refer students to the program. Professor Barbieri felt this program was consistent with Concordia's mandate and congratulated Counselling & Development on their initiative. Dr. Boisvert reminded Council this program is also supported and funded by Orientation.

6. REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

The written reports from Financial Aid, Advocacy, and Recreation & Athletics were not available due to the absence of the Directors. Dr. Graub indicated that the report from Counselling and Development would be delivered shortly. Dr. Boisvert thanked Nancy Torbit for a very entertaining and insightful Health Services presentation which was in the form of a skit. Special thanks should go to the actors: Marie-Claire Richer, Angie Siano, Owen Moran and Richard Blake. Mr. Feldman asked for an update on the status of Health Services at Loyola. Ms Torbit confirmed the service was located in the Loyola Dean of Students Office and was staffed by a nurse Monday - Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm. The service closes for lunch between 12:00noon and 1:00pm. Additional publicity concerning these services is starting shortly. Ms Richer, Loyola Health Services Nurse informed Council that an information table had been set up in the Lobby of the Administration Building. She reiterated that the Loyola office acts as a referral/evaluation service, as well as a resource center for health education. Mr. Melkonian asked for information on the waiting period for doctor's appointments as compared to outside clinics. Ms Torbit indicated that there are "walk-in" clinics available as well as appointments with doctors. The waiting time for the walk-in clinic is no wait at all to 1 1/2 hours for an appointment. Dr. Graub pointed out the hurriedness and lack of personal interest often found in outside clinics is not found at Health Services. Outside clinics also do not have access to university resources or have a real understanding of university procedures. Dr. Boisvert confirmed that Counselling & Development will present at the next Council meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Space Planning Task Force:** Mr. Feldman explained that due to technical problems he was not able to present this motion in writing. He read for Council the following motion:

WHEREAS the Office of the Rector has established a Space Planning Task Force, and

WHEREAS a strategic space plan for the University will have significant implications for student life at Concordia, and

WHEREAS the CCSL supports the participation of student representation on all matters pertaining to student life at Concordia;

BE IT RESOLVED that the CCSL request the Office of the Rector to create positions for one undergraduate student and one graduate student on the Space Planning Task Force.

The motion was moved by Mr. Feldman and seconded by Mr. Baidoun. Professor Barbieri was in favour of the idea and questioned whether CCSL would appoint the representatives. Mr. Feldman replied that CSU is asking the Rector to create the position on the Task Force but that CSU and the GSA should have the responsibility to appoint the representative. The motion as presented was passed unanimously. Dr. Boisvert will forward the motion to the Rector, emphasizing the desire of CSU and the GSA to appoint their representatives.

b) **Tuition Fee Increase:** Mr. Baidoun distributed CSU's proposition for Senate Resolution. The resolution is as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Concordia Senate opposes any increase in tuition fees, and cuts to the loans and bursaries program; therefore, the Concordia Senate supports all actions taken in order to prevent this discriminatory decision

Mr. Baidoun informed Council the resolution was passed unanimously by CSU and had received the Dean of Students' blessing. He expects the issue to be debated at the November Senate meeting. Mr. Baidoun moved that CCSL endorse the CSU proposition to Senate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melkonian. Professor Barbieri stated that while in principle he supported the students concerns, as a member of the University community and aware of the current financial situation of the University, he is torn. He does not wish to vote against the motion; he will have to abstain. Mr. Baidoun appreciated Professor Barbieri's point of view but he reiterated CSU is simply asking for support from Council. Ms Ghadban questioned whether the increase does actually help the University. Dr. Boisvert explained the increase in fees comes from the Provincial Government. We do not as yet know the Minister's position on what happens to this money or if an increase in fees will affect our government subsidy. Professor Barbieri felt that if the wording of the motion was changed, perhaps there would be more university support. Mr. Feldman explained the wording of the motion is intended to be strong. This motion will be debated at Senate. We cannot sit on the fence. Dr. Boisvert clarified that the motion is to endorse the resolution not to approve it. Council can amend the motion if it wishes. Mr. Melkonian stated the wording was appropriate. He felt that alternatives to fee increases have not been exhausted. Mr. Baidoun called the question. The vote was: 8 in favour, 3 abstentions, 0 opposed. The motion was carried. Dr. Boisvert will forward the resolution to the Secretary of Senate. Mr. Baidoun thanked Council for their support.

c) **Recreation & Athletics:** Ms Ghadban questioned the difference in user fees for similar activities at the SGW and Loyola Campus. Mr. Zarins will look into this.

8. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be November 22 at 10:00am in AD 308.

9. TERMINATION OF MEETING: On a motion by Ms Hughes, seconded by Mr. Melkonian the meeting was terminated at 12:00noon.